

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: IO/SA:LEKAHN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170493

FOR: ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVID H. POPPER

FOL TEL FROM SECSTATE AUG 27, 73 TO ROME TEL AVIV INFO BEIRUT
USUN NEW YORK IS REPTD.

QTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 170493

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: ICAO, ETRN, IS

SUBJECT: PERES-BRINEGAR LETTER ON ICAO MEETINGS

REF: TEL AVIV 6717

1. ISRAELI POLCOUNSELOR RAVIV AUG 27 GAVE DEPTOFFS NOTE
CONTAINING LETTER FROM ISRAELI MINISTER OF TRANSPORTATION
PERES TO SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION BRINEGAR (TEXT BELOW).
RAVIV MADE CLEAR THAT LETTER IS NOT GOI RESPONSE TO
AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHE REPORTED REFTEL. RAVIV INDICATED
THAT RESPONSE STILL UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION WITHIN GOI.

2. ALTHOUGH PERES LETTER IS NOT GOI RESPONSE TO OUR
REQUEST, SOME OF THOUGHTS EXPRESSED THEREIN, PARTICULARLY
CLAIM THAT AUG 10 INCIDENT WAS ACT OF "LEGITIMATE SELF
DEFENSE," CLEARLY UNHELPFUL AND WOULD BE COUNTER PRODUCTIVE
IN ROME CONTEXT IF THEY WERE TO APPEAR IN EXPECTED GOI
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STATEMENT OF POSITION. ISRAELIS WORKING WORLDWIDE FOR

SUPPORT IN ROME AND WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF TEL AVIV COULD ASCERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT SIMILAR LETTERS SENT TO OTHER MINISTERS OF TRANSPORTATION.

3. RAVIV ASKED FOR OUR ASSESSMENT OF ICAO SITUATION ON EVE OF MEETINGS IN ROME. DEPTOFF SUMMARIZED ICAO VOTING RULES AND OUR EXPECTATION THAT LEBANESE WILL INSCRIBE ITEM ON AUG 28 AND THAT DRAFT LANGUAGE AND ACTION THEREON WILL

BE PURSUED AS FAST AS 24 HOUR RULE PERMITS. RAVIV SEEMED POORLY BRIEFED ON MECHANICS OF ICAO MEETINGS AND THIS REFLECTED IN HIS, AND APPARENTLY GO'S HOPE THAT SOMEHOW OR OTHER AN "IMPORTANT QUESTION" REQUIREMENT OF A TWO-THIRDS VOTE COULD BE INVOKED. DEPTOFF DISABUSED RAVIV OF THIS HOPE IN CONTEXT OF SOUTH AFRICA TYPE SANCTIONS AND STRESSED THAT IN OUR VIEW A CRUCIAL POINT WILL BE BELIEF AMONG MAJORITY THAT ISRAEL EITHER DOES OR DOES NOT CONSIDER ITSELF FREE TO REPEAT AUGUST 10 ACTION.

4. BEGIN TEXT PERES-BRINEGAR LETTER QUOTE MY DEAR MR. SECRETARY: I AM VERY MUCH CONCERNED WITH THE OUTCOME OF THE FORTHCOMING DELIBERATIONS OF THE 20TH EXTRAORDINARY ASSEMBLY OF ICAO IN ROME, RESPECTING THE INCIDENT WITH THE LEBANESE AIRCRAFT WHICH WAS THE SUBJECT OF A RESOLUTION OF THE ICAO COUNCIL OF 20TH AUGUST 1973. SOME ARAB STATES WILL, I AM SURE, TRY TO EMBROIL THE ICAO ASSEMBLY IN A POLITICAL AND MILITARY MATTER RELATING TO THE MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, REGARDLESS OF THE FACT THAT THIS ORGANIZATION IS A TECHNICAL SPECIALIZED AGENCY OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH DEFINED TERMS OF REFERENCE.

5. THE FORTHCOMING ICAO 20TH ASSEMBLY AND DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE TO BE CONVENED AT THE SAME TIME SHOULD RATHER PREOCCUPY THEMSELVES WITH SOLVING THE STILL UNRESOLVED MATTERS OF UNLAWFUL SEIZURE OF AIRCRAFT AND INTERFERENCE WITH CIVIL AVIATION MATTERS WHICH MY COUNTRY HAS BEEN ALWAYS TRYING TO INDUCE THE ORGANIZATION TO SOLVE. IF SUCH A SOLUTION WERE PRESENT, ISRAEL WOULD NOT HAVE HAD TO RESORT TO A UNILATERAL ACTION TO ERADICATE ACTS OF TERRORISM AGAINST ITS CIVIL AVIATION.

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6. IT WOULD BE IRONICAL IF THOSE COUNTRIES WHO ALL ALONG WERE DESTRUCTIVE WITHIN ICAO IN RESPECT OF EFFORTS TO AGREE ON SOME KIND OF ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS TO WEED OUT TERRORISM AGAINST CIVIL AVIATION WOULD APPEAR NOW IN THE ROLE OF INNOCENT VICTIME AND SUCCEED IN PASSING ANY RESOLUTION CONDEMNATORY AGAINST ISRAEL.

7. OUR ACTION IN THE ISSUE OF THE LEBANESE AIRCRAFT MEANT NO MORE THAN THAT THE PASSENGERS WERE HELD UP FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS, AND THE PREOCCUPATION OF ICAO WITH THE INCIDENT IS SOMEWHAT IN CONTRAST WITH THE FAILURE TO TAKE ANY EFFECTIVE STEPS FOR THE PREVENTION OF INDISCRIMINATE MURDER OF INNOCENT MEN AT INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS, THE PERPRETRATION OF AIR PIRACY AND THE BLOWING UP IN MID-AIR OF PASSENGER AIRCRAFT BY ARAB TERRORISTS.

8. THE OBSTRUCTION SO FAR BY ARAB COUNTRIES OF ANY EFFORTS BY ICAO TO ERADICATE TERRORISM AGAINST CIVIL AVIATION, AS WELL AS THE READINESS OF SOME OTHER COUNTRIES TO ALLOW CRIMINALS TO GO FREE AFTER APPREHENSION, LEFT ISRAEL NO CHOICE BUT TO TRY AND CURB AIR TERRORISM BY WHAT, IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WAS DEFINITELY A MEASURE OF AN EXCEPTIONAL NATURE OF LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE. ISRAEL STANDS READY AND WILLING TO COOPERATE WITH ALL INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO STAMP OUT AIR TERRORISM AND IN PARTICULAR TO SUPPORT EVERY ENDEAVOUR OF ICAO TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND INVIOABILITY OF INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT IN AS COMPREHENSIVE AND AS ALL-EMBRACING A MANNER AS POSSIBLE.

9. I WOULD BE GRATEFUL TO YOU IF THE POSITION OF THE UNITED STATES AT THE FORTHCOMING ROME MEETING BE FORMULATED SO AS TO SOLVE THE GENERAL PROBLEMS OF THE SAFETY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TO OBIATE THE ADOPTION OF ANY MEASURES AGAINST ISRAEL WHICH WOULD BE TOTALLY UNJUSTIFIED UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND COULD REPRESENT A DISTORTION OF THE POSITIONS ADOPTED BY ISRAEL AND HER ADVERSARIES IN THE PAST VIS-A-VIS THE QUESTION OF THE PROTECTION OF

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AIR TRANSPORT FROM TERRORIST ASSAULTS. SINCERELY,
SHIMON PERES, MINISTER OF TRANSPORT".

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